

April 12, 1994

LB 1354
LR 293

better for Atokad and the rest of the racing organization. I would like to turn any time over to Senator Chambers, if he would like to speak again. He doesn't want to speak again, and I didn't think he'd want to speak again. So I am trying to speak for myself as long as I can because I do want this bill taken off the agenda as far as this year is concerned. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: I move the bill be advanced to E & R for engrossing.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The bill has been moved. Senator Schellpeper, do you wish to close? He waives closing. The question before the body is advancement of LB 1354. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. LB 1354 advances. LR 293CA.

CLERK: Senator, I have no E & R. The first amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Robak, AM4496. (Robak amendment appears on page 1885 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. This amendment is printed on page 1885 of the Journal. And what this amendment does is it would allow the people of Nebraska to decide if the Legislature should have the authority to authorize video lotteries in the racetracks as well as organizations already authorized and for other gaming. It also gives the citizens a say on whether they want local video lotteries. Some of the important issues why this must be in the ballot this year is because the racetracks are in bad shape, and if video is going to be used to assist them they need it before another two years is past. For each day the state does not have video gaming while neighboring states and Native American tribes do, revenue is being lost. This issue on the ballot at this time would have the prospect of video gaming in Nebraska, would have a limiting effect on investments in neighboring states designed to draw revenue out of Nebraska. This amendment is not an irreversible step, it merely gives options to the Legislature that could be useful when the issue is addressed in the future and before an election can be had. I would also like to state at this time that in jeopardy, if we do not have this on the ballot this fall, in jeopardy could be the charities that could